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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/206,329	12/08/1998	GENG ZHANG	970663.ORI	5359

7590 03/22/2004  
NIKOLAI MERSEREAU AND DIETZ  
820 INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 554023325

EXAMINER

EVANISKO, GEORGE ROBERT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3762

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2004

37

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/206,329

Applicant(s)

ZHANG ET AL.

Examiner

George R Evanisko

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-19 and 21-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-19 and 21-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/23/03 has been entered.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 1, 3-19, and 21-36 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claims 1 and 19, "ventrical" is misspelled and should be "ventricle". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

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invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 3-19, and 21-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haefner et al.

Haefner meets the limitations of the term "reduced capacitance". In addition, Haefner describes figure 1 as a dual chamber cardioverter/defibrillator with pacing capability (col 3, ln 45) being able to operate in the unipolar or bipolar sensing modes having atrial and ventricular tip and ring electrodes, a can indifferent electrode, and a metallic housing. Haefner further describes in figure 2 the use of a system in the bipolar mode using the tip and ring electrodes and indifferent can electrode and meets the electrode combination limitations of claims 3, 4, 6, 11, 15, 21, 22, 24, 29, and 33.

Haefner et al disclose the claimed invention except for the other different combinations of unipolar or bipolar sensing between atrial electrodes (tip and/or ring), ventricular electrodes (tip and/or ring), and case/can electrodes, for a system to sense between all combinations of any two electrodes. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the implantable electrical therapy device using unipolar and bipolar sensing as taught by Haefner with different combinations of unipolar or bipolar sensing between atrial electrodes (tip and/or ring), ventricular electrodes (tip and/or ring), and case/can electrodes for a system to sense between all combinations of any two electrodes since it was known in the art that implantable heart sensing systems (pacemakers, defibrillators, etc) use unipolar or bipolar sensing between atrial electrodes, ventricular electrodes, and case/can electrodes for a system to sense between all combinations of any two electrodes to provide a

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pacemaker/defibrillator/ICD system that can sense heart activity using any of the electrodes so that particular configurations can be chosen depending on the implantation of the leads, the desired sensing of a particular heart condition(s) or area, and/or to allow for the selection of an optimum sensing configuration.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 12/23/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Two prior art references (of many) have been previously cited showing that it is obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have the system use any electrode combination (Sholder, 5222493 or Greeninger et al, 5324310). In addition, the examiner has provided two more references showing a system using any combination of electrodes for sensing. The motivation/incentive for the combination for the 103 rejection being that it is known to use the different combinations in pacemakers, defibrillators, and ICD's to sense heart activity using any combination of the electrodes so that the particular configurations can be chosen depending on the implantation of the leads, the sensing of a particular heart condition(s) or area, and/or to allow for the selection of an optimum sensing configuration.

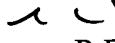
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R Evanisko whose telephone number is 703 308-2612. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on 703 308-5181. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
George R Evanisko  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3762

3/15/4

GRE  
March 15, 2004